

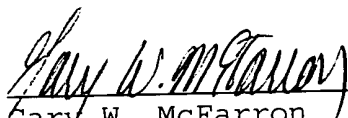
Please add new claim 6 as follows:

6 (New). The method of claim 2 characterized in that the zinc/nickel coat is oxidized at pH 1.8.

REMARKS

This is a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified patent application. In line 1 of claim 3, "or 2," has been deleted and has been replaced with --claim 1--. In line 1 of claim 5, "one of the preceding claims," has been deleted and has been replaced with --claim 1--. These amendments are made to remove multiple dependencies in Claims 3 and 5. In addition, new claim 6 has been added.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary W. McFarron
Registration No.: 27,357

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3 (Amended). The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that a conversion coat is applied to the zinc/nickel coat.

5 (Amended). The method of ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1~~7~~ characterized in that a coat of dry lubricant is applied.